

CHAL-0220
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14 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SUBJECT : TALENT Briefings Conducted at
Project HTAUTOMAT

REFERENCE : CHAL-0170, 1 July 1958

1. It was I who requested HTAUTOMAT to submit a list of people briefed at HTAUTOMAT, and, needless to say, I submitted their report to you with considerable trepidation for I feared I would get the cutting edge of your pen. My fear was confirmed.

2. I do feel that the following points in this connection need to be made:

- a. All of the people briefed were TALENT cleared.
- b. The people can be divided roughly into two groups:

1) Military Services, State Department, and the Agency brass who have been briefed on request for a variety of reasons including budget support (for such people as Red White and those in analogous positions in the Military) and the need to develop confidence in intelligence findings based upon such materials as well as in some cases the need to gain support for continuing operations.

2) The other group is composed essentially of researchers and estimators. In regard to this second group, the record shows that they were given not general briefings but briefings on their specialty such as guided

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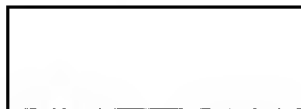
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missiles. Many of these people were brought in in connection with the examination of atomic energy and guided missile photography, the analysis of which was exceedingly complex. There is no question in my opinion that researchers are considerably enlightened by looking at the photos as against only the words of PI reports.

c. If one deduces that because people are briefed at HTAUTOMAT they know or suspect the Agency collected the material, I would reply as follows: Today they neither know from the security briefing nor from Lundahl's briefing that CIA collected the information. CHALICE does not enter into the briefings. They may speculate that the Agency did collect the material. No doubt if these briefings were held in the Air Force, Army, or Navy they would speculate differently. However, here we are faced with the fact of both HTAUTOMAT and Lundahl's presenting ability. HTAUTOMAT, by virtue of its freedom from red tape in procurement of R&D equipments, its imaginative use of these to produce more intelligible exhibits, and its thoroughness in presenting plus its being used by several agencies as a center -- all of these things conspire to make HTAUTOMAT attractive as a place to hold briefings.

d. I have not actually made a count as to whether CIA personnel briefed outnumber those from the Services. That this would be so would not surprise me inasmuch as practically all of the Agency's people briefed are exposed to the material for the most part only in the Agency. For example, of the some 1,288 Air Force cleared people, many are located in SAC where they may be exposed to the material.



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JAMES Q. REBER
CIA TALENT Control Officer

JQR:cw

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